

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [02] with the following amended paragraph:

[02] In what has become known as The Information Age, computer use is an everyday part of our lives. Naturally, innovators and developers are engaged in a ~~neverending~~never-ending quest to provide new and improved ways in which computers can be used. In one such innovation, software and hardware have been developed that allow a computer to hear, and actually understand, words spoken aloud by a user. Such systems are generally referred to as speech recognition or voice recognition systems, and are currently available on the market.

Please replace paragraph [04] with the following amended paragraph:

[04] If a system is to accept both dictation and commands from the user, there needs to be a way for the computer to recognize whether a spoken word is to be treated as a dictation and transcribed, or as a command and carried out. For example, a user who repeats the phrase "delete the last word" might intend to add the phrase "delete the last word" to a document he or she is dictating, or the user might actually want to delete the previous word from a document. In commercially-available systems that offer dictation and command modes a user can give the computer an indication as to whether a spoken word or phrase is to be treated as a command or dictation. This indication is often done through use of the computer keyboard, which can often have over 100 keys, and may use keys such as the "CTRL" or "SHIFT" keys for controlling command or dictation. Other keys or physical switches are then used to control the on/off state of the microphone. For example, the Dragon NaturallySpeaking® speech recognition program, offered by Dragon Systems, Inc., allows users to use keyboard accelerator commands such that one key (e.g., the CTRL or SHIFT) might be used to inform the system that spoken words are to be treated as dictation, while another key informs the computer to instruct spoken words as commands. In use, the user simply presses one of these keys to switch between dictation and command "modes," while another key press or switch is used to activate or deactivate the microphone.

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Please replace paragraph [42] with the following amended paragraph:

[42] If, in step 419, the button is no longer pressed, then the process may move to step 411 to await further user inputs and/or speech. From step 411, the process may move to step 421; if no tap or press and hold is received, to determine whether the speech recognition process has been instructed to cease its operation. Such an instruction may come from the user through, for example, activation of another button ~~or~~ on a graphical user interface, or the instruction may come from the user's device itself. For example, speech recognition functions may automatically be terminated by the device when battery power runs low, or when system resources are needed for other processes. If the speech recognition process has been instructed to terminate, then the process may move to step 403 to await ~~another~~ activation. If, however, the speech recognition process has not been instructed to cease identifying speech, then the process may return to step 407 to once again determine whether a timeout has occurred.

Please replace paragraph [51] with the following amended paragraph:

[51] If, in step 603, ~~the~~ Dictation button was pressed or tapped, the process determines what type of input was received in step 607. If, in step 607, the Dictation button is determined to have been tapped, then the process moves to the dictation open microphone process shown in Fig. 9 and described further below. If, in step 607, the Dictation button is determined to have been pressed and held, then the process moves to the dictation push to talk process shown in Fig. 10 and described further below.

Please replace paragraph [60] with the following amended paragraph:

[60] Figure 10 illustrates a Dictation push to talk process that may be ~~access~~-accessed by pressing and holding the Dictation button in Figs. 6 or 9, and is similar to the command/control push to talk process shown in Fig. 8. In this process, the microphone may be activated in step 1003 to detect spoken words while the Dictation button is held. In step 1005, if the Dictation button is released, the system may deactivate the microphone in step 1007, and proceed to the initial state process shown in Fig. 6.

Appln. No.: 09/918,723
Amendment dated January 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 24, 2004

Please replace the ABSTRACT with the following amended paragraph. Applicants are submitting a replacement abstract on a separate sheet of paper.

A system and method for use in computing systems that employ speech recognition capabilities is provided. Where recognized speech can be dictation and commands, one or more buttons may be used to change modes of said computing systems to accept spoken words as dictation, or to accept spoken words as commands, as well as activate a microphone used for the speech recognition. The change in mode may occur responsive to the manner in which a button is pressed, where the manner may include such depressions as taps, press and holds, thumbwheel slides, and other forms of button manipulation.